

## **Hohman, Darla**

---

**From:** Hohman, Darla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:38 PM  
**To:** 'ackerman.joyce@epamail.epa.gov'  
**Subject:** Slawson Oil Company spill

Hi Joyce,

I have a couple of emails between you and Cynthia Peterson regarding a well blow out by Slawson Oil Company in 2012. Do you have any other information on this that I should know about? Thanks.

**Darla Hohman**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Oil Pollution Act Enforcement Program**  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
ph. 303-312-6263  
fax 303-312-6341  
email: hohman.darla@epa.gov



## Hohman, Darla

---

**From:** Hohman, Darla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:53 PM  
**To:** Nguyen, Duc  
**Subject:** Slawson Oil Company well blowout

Hi Duc,

I saw your name on a few emails regarding this well blow out that occurred on 12/12/12. Could you please send me any files/emails, etc. that you have on this spill? Thanks.

**Darla Hohman**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Oil Pollution Act Enforcement Program**  
**1595 Wynkoop St.**  
**Denver, CO 80202**  
**ph. 303-312-6263**  
**fax 303-312-6341**  
**email: [hohman.darla@epa.gov](mailto:hohman.darla@epa.gov)**



## Peterson, Cynthia

---

**From:** Joyce Ackerman [Ackerman.Joyce@epamail.epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 10:03 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Fw: Slawson Update (UNCLASSIFIED)

Joyce Ackerman, On-Scene Coordinator  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
Phone: 303-312-6822

----- Forwarded by Joyce Ackerman/R8/USEPA/US on 03/11/2013 10:02 AM -----

From: "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>  
To: Joyce Ackerman/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: "Fewless, Dennis R." <dfewless@nd.gov>, "Glatt, Dave D." <dglatt@nd.gov>  
Date: 12/31/2012 10:10 AM  
Subject: RE: Slawson Update (UNCLASSIFIED)

---

You're welcome. I just wish now, that I had asked you to come up originally. It probably would have helped with the subsequent issues of all the agencies involved. Problem was that, at the time, I didn't know that the mist plume had gotten all the way to Lake Sakakawea. I had tracked it out to the lee side of a few trees in a little copse, and lost the trail. Apparently I was in a wind shadow created by the copse.

I have since talked with Jessica Johnson, Contaminant Specialist, with USFWS. Apparently there is some kind of policy/agreement between FWS and EPA that after 16 hours of contact work on a release such as this, that FSW is supposed to ask EPA for reimbursement. Now, we talked while I was driving, so there is no guarantee that I got that right, but that may explain what happened, that was pointing you folks back at the Van Hook well control incident.

We are waiting for the name of the frac company that did the Lunker2, and the recipe they used. Apparently [www.fracfocus.org](http://www.fracfocus.org) doesn't have staff to keep up with all that is coming in, and consequently neither of the Lunker wells frac data is up on the web yet. I have a request in to the company, as of Thursday, to send us the name, and the information that they sent in to fracfocus. I've been watching my e-mails, but haven't gotten anything yet. In the meantime, all 5 of my samples are in the lab freezer (soil and snow) waiting for that info.

Keep in touch, we may not be out of the woods on this yet. We have USFWS, ND Game and Fish, US BLM, Tribal Energy Office, and Tribal Environmental all looking over our and each other's shoulders.

Kris Roberts  
Environmental Response Team Leader  
ND Department of Health  
Division of Water Quality  
918 E. Divide Ave, 4th Floor  
Bismack, ND 58501-1947  
701-328-5236 (off.)  
701-391-0982 (cell)  
[kroberts@nd.gov](mailto:kroberts@nd.gov)

**From:** [Ackerman.Joyce@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Ackerman.Joyce@epamail.epa.gov) [mailto:[Ackerman.Joyce@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Ackerman.Joyce@epamail.epa.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Kris D.  
**Subject:** RE: Slawson Update (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Kris - Thanks for including us in the updates!

Joyce

Joyce Ackerman, On-Scene Coordinator  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
Phone: 303-312-6822

**Peterson, Cynthia**

Slawson  
NEWFIELD

**From:** Schuller, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Friday, March 08, 2013 12:22 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Subject:** FW: Fw: Newfield Oil Well Oil Spill in ND

Cynthia – Here's some information regarding the ND oil wells we discussed this morning. I'll send a few more momentarily. Thank you for following up on this!

Jennifer

---

**From:** Llamozas, Emilio  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:49 PM  
**To:** Schuller, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Newfield Oil Well Oil Spill in ND

Hi Jen,  
The well describe below appears to be a different well than the one we discussed during the meeting. The well discussed in the meeting is owned by Slawson Exploration and it spewed oil on December 13, 2012 near the Town of Parshall.

See Article below

## OIL AND GAS:

# N.D. well spews hydrocarbons, salt water into air

Published: Friday, December 14, 2012

An out-of-control well near Lake Sakakawea, N.D., shot a mixture of gas, oil and saltwater as high as 50 feet into the air yesterday and as far as 1,000 feet from the well.

The **Slawson Exploration** well spewing the orange-colored mixture was ultimately capped, containing the liquid inside a berm around the well.

Vacuum pumpers removed the liquid from inside the berm, and crews examined the well this morning before more cleanup could begin.

The well is located near the Van Hook Arm recreation site, about 10 miles southwest of Parshall. There were no reported injuries.

According to Slawson Superintendent Kyle Waliezer, the well is one of 300 that Slawson oversees in the state. He said Wild Well Control of Houston gave the all-clear this morning, and the company will resume work.

State Health Department environmental engineer Kris Roberts said records from the well will show much of the mixture spilled during the incident (Lauren Donovan, Bismarck Tribune, Dec. 13). -- **HP**

Emilio Llamozas  
(303) 312-6407 phone



(303) 312-7202 fax

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

From: Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US  
To: Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US  
Date: 01/30/2013 03:08 PM  
Subject: Fw: Newfield Oil Well Oil Spill in ND

FYI -

Jennifer Schuller  
UIC/OPA Technical Enforcement  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Phone: 303.312.6334  
Fax: 303.312.6952

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US on 01/30/2013 03:08 PM -----

From: Duc Nguyen/R8/USEPA/US  
To: R8 OSC Dispatcher  
Cc: Curtis Kimbel/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 12/26/2012 08:47 AM  
Subject: Newfield Oil Well Oil Spill in ND

Good morning,

On December 21, 2012, an oil well owned and operated by Newfield Exploration Co had a release of crude oil (approximately 106 bbls/hr), salt water (80 bbl/hr.), and natural gas (166,000 ft3/hr) due to the equipment failure. This oil well is located in Watsworth City, McKenzie County, ND (longitude: 47 ° 49' 11.88" and latitude: 103° 23' 49.42", Section 18 T 150 R 99). Released products have been contained in the constructed earth berm area. On Dec. 23, 2012, Newfield's contractor stopped the release after the permanent plug was installed. Natural resources and surface water are not impacted by the release.

Today, R8 - Emergency Response Program has dispatched OSC Curtis Kimbel to ND working with ND Department of Health/Water Quality Program, ND Industrial Commission Oil and Gas Div., and Newfield personnel to assess the impacted areas and subsequently develop the cleanup plan.

[attachment "PICT4717.JPG" deleted by Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US] [attachment "PICT4718.JPG" deleted by Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US] [attachment "PICT4719.JPG" deleted by Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US] [attachment "PICT4721.JPG" deleted by Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US]

Thanks.

Duc Nguyen  
On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)  
Emergency Response Unit

US EPA  
1595 Wynkoop St. (8EPR-SA)  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
(303) 312-6509 (work)  
(303) 886-1636 (cell)  
E-mail: [nguyen.duc@epa.gov](mailto:nguyen.duc@epa.gov)



*Slawson*

Peterson, Cynthia

---

**From:** Jennifer Schuller [Schuller.Jennifer@epamail.epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 08, 2013 12:32 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Fw: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

FYI -

Jennifer Schuller  
UIC/OPA Technical Enforcement  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Phone: 303.312.6334  
Fax: 303.312.6952

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US on 03/08/2013 12:31 PM -----

From: Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US  
To: Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US  
Cc: Darcy Oconnor/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 12/20/2012 11:34 AM  
Subject: Fw: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

---

Hi Jen, I left you a brief voicemail to see if we can get together and discuss EPA's potential follow-up. I am free from 1-2 and from 330-430 today if you have time. We can also chat briefly over the phone if that works better. Thanks Gwen

Gwenette Christiansen Campbell  
Acting Unit Chief NPDES Enforcement  
USEPA Region 8, Denver, CO  
1595 Wynkoop St 8ENF-W  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

(303) 312-6463

----- Forwarded by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US on 12/20/2012 11:32 AM -----

From: Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US  
To: Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Art Palomares/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 12/20/2012 06:55 AM  
Subject: Fw: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

---

Gwen,  
Below is some additional information from the well in ND. See message below.  
Thanks

Emilio Llamozas  
(303) 312-6407 phone  
(303) 312-7202 fax

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

----- Forwarded by Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US on 12/20/2012 06:53 AM -----

From: "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>  
To: Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US, Curtis Kimbel/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, "Glatt, Dave D." <dglatt@nd.gov>, "Fewless, Dennis R." <dfewless@nd.gov>, "Helms, Lynn D." <lhelms@nd.gov>, "Hvinden, Dave C." <dhvinden@nd.gov>, "Garbe, Bob K." <bgarbe@nd.gov>  
Cc: "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>  
Date: 12/19/2012 06:48 AM  
Subject: RE: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

Last question first. Yes Tribal is aware and involved, and this is within Tribal boundaries, but on Fee land and USACE/NDGF land, so no one is entirely sure what the Tribal involvement will be. Although rumor has it that the Tribal Chairman is pretty ticked off with the company for reasons even beyond this incident.

First question – As best we can know at this time, the mist is mainly Bakken Crude. Best hypothesis so far (being checked by 3 samples in lab from 3 different distances from the well) is that the heavy produced water with salt content dropped out very close to the well, and the oil was carried much farther with the wind. Well went into production approximately October 10-15, flowing under its own pressure. That means that the well has had nearly 2 full months to purge any remaining frac fluids before the well control failure. The accident happened while setting the pump on the well after the pressure/flow started dropping off, as is the usual practice up here.

We will be collecting a produced water sample from before the control failure from the produced water tank.

That should give us a fair idea of what is in the produced water. We will also be checking for any frac chemicals we can analyze for, based on information from [www.fracfocus.org](http://www.fracfocus.org), as all fraccing, and chemicals, is required to be listed on that website for North Dakota.

NDDoH, USACE, USFWS, NDGF, and Tribal Energy were all present at 10:00 yesterday as we walked the plume path and discussed/decided what measures to execute and when.

Impacted snow will be removed from a secluded back bay area along the shore. USACE and USFWS agreed that attempting anything on the substrate of the island/peninsula and shore line where tern and plover nesting may occur would cause more damage than good. Monitoring for impacts in the spring will be required.

We took a background sample of snow and soil/substrate as well as an impacted snow sample from the back bay and 2 possibly impacted soil/substrate samples from the perimeter of the back bay.

Six (6) hay filter strips across the drainage from the well location to the lake will be staked down after cutting vegetation to the ground level with a brush hog along those strips. Also, a mesh of polyethylene sorbent will be placed at the shore/vegetation line of the drainage as a final precaution against overland flow during melt.

Approximately 150 most heavily misted conifer trees were flagged for immediate (sunny day and temp around 32F) application of Ecobiotics treatment. Another application in the spring, before budout, will be done on those and a much larger number of both conifer and deciduous trees in the mist plume path.

NDGF and USACE will actively be working with the company to evaluate the possibility of a prescribed burn of the grasses areas in the spring, as a burn at this time is not practical with the snow cover.

Company appears to be compliant and in agreement with all of the above, and will starting the measures above immediately. USACE is in the process of working up a "Temporary Construction" permit for the company.

That is where we left it at 15:00. Will update further as information is available.

Kris Roberts  
Div. of Water Quality  
[kroberts@nd.gov](mailto:kroberts@nd.gov)  
701.328.5236 (o)  
701.391.0982 (c)



**From:** Llamozas.Emilio@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Llamozas.Emilio@epamail.epa.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2012 7:26 PM

**To:** Roberts, Kris D.

**Subject:** Re: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

Kris,

Thanks for the update. I really appreciate it. Do you know what the mist plume was made up of? Also, do you know if the spilled material has been sampled?

Looking at the map it appears that the well might have been on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Do you know if that is the case and whether the Three Affiliated Tribes are involved in this issue?

Thanks,

Emilio Llamozas

(303) 312-6407 phone

(303) 312-7202 fax

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

"Roberts, Kris D." ---12/18/2012 06:26:40 AM---Emillio: In answer to your enquiry. The well in question was brought under control on Friday mornin

From: "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>

To: Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US

Cc: "Glatt, Dave D." <dglatt@nd.gov>, "Fewless, Dennis R." <dfewless@nd.gov>

Date: 12/18/2012 06:26 AM

Subject: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

---

Emillio: In answer to your enquiry.

The well in question was brought under control on Friday morning at 0500. Clean up is underway. First was scraping up of most heavily impacted snow and field stubble for disposal at the Industrial Waste Landfill near Sawyer, ND. Beyond that, we have identified the extent of the mist plume in both the north and southwest directions. In the north direction, the plume stayed within the agricultural field, and the company is in working with the landowner on damages and further options of clean up.

In the southwest direction, the mist plume has impacted private agricultural land, ND Game and Fish Department Wildlife Management area, leased from the US Corp of Engineers, and some made it onto the ice of Lake Sakakewea. All agencies have so far been on location evaluating the impacts and delineating the extents, with the exception of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. That is being corrected today.

We are all meeting today (company, USACE, NDGF, NDDoH, USFWS) to detail cleanup objectives and extents. The mist on the lake proper is so light and spotty that the USACE personnel that delineated it have recommended that nothing be done, as it would be of little benefit and likely cause more damage and risk to personnel.

A back bay area is going to have all snow removed (the mist leaves a 1/8 to 1/4 inch layer near the top

of the snow pack – we have had flurries since), as well as some hand snow removal from the barrier island where tern and plover nest.

Samples have been taken, and more are planned, both now and in the spring. Runoff filter barriers will be laid down across the drainage out of the plume area. Luckily, the plume path and the drainages appear to roughly coincide. A biological agent that has been vetted by our department for this uses is going to be applied to the conifers and other trees that were misted in the wildlife management area.

Oh yes, Curtis Kimbel and Joyce Ackerman, Reg. 8 OSCs were contacted on Thursday and updated as to the information we had at that time. The only change to that was the discovery that the mist plume blew much farther to the southwest than I originally thought, i.e. onto the ice of the lake.

Any other questions you can direct to me.

Kris Roberts  
ND Dept. of Health  
Div. of Water Quality  
918 E. Divide Ave, 4th Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947  
[kroberts@nd.gov](mailto:kroberts@nd.gov)  
701.328.5236 (o)  
701.391.0982 ©

*Slawson*

**Peterson, Cynthia**

---

**From:** Schuller, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Friday, March 08, 2013 12:33 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Fw: Update on Oil Well Blowout Within Boundaries of Ft. Berthold Reservation, ND

After reviewing these emails, please let me know if you need any additional information! Thanks,

Jennifer Schuller  
UIC/OPA Technical Enforcement  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Phone: 303.312.6334  
Fax: 303.312.6952

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US on 03/08/2013 12:30 PM -----

**From:** Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US  
**To:** Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US  
**Date:** 12/21/2012 10:22 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Update on Oil Well Blowout Within Boundaries of Ft. Berthold Reservation, ND

Jen, I am out today sick. I also think Emilio is out. It sounds like OSCs are involved and a number of other state and federal entities to ensure the spill is cleaned up. We think it is on tribal land. Emilio is thinking that there may not be much for NPDES to do right except monitor the situation and provide assistance if needed. We both thought the OPA folks may be interested.

-----Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US wrote: -----

**To:** Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
**From:** Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US  
**Date:** 12/20/2012 05:26PM  
**Cc:** Darcy Oconnor/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Subject:** Fw: Update on Oil Well Blowout Within Boundaries of Ft. Berthold Reservation, ND

Gwen - FYI. Let's chat tomorrow regarding the information you provided earlier today.

Thanks!

Jennifer Schuller  
UIC/OPA Technical Enforcement  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Phone: 303.312.6334  
Fax: 303.312.6952

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US on 12/20/2012 05:25 PM -----

**From:** Duc Nguyen/R8/USEPA/US  
**To:** R8 OSC Dispatcher  
**Date:** 12/20/2012 05:17 PM  
**Subject:** Update on Oil Well Blowout Within Boundaries of Ft. Berthold Reservation, ND

Hi All:

On December 12th, 2012, an oil well owned and operated by Slawson Oil Company experienced a "blowout" due to an equipment malfunction. This oil well is located in New Town, Mountrail County, ND. Approximately 800 barrels of Bakken crude and salt water mixture was released into the environment and largely localized around the well pad.

*(See attached file: Garrison Project Boundary.PNG)(See attached file: Location of Blow-Out.PNG)(See attached file: Crude in footsteps.PNG)(See attached file: Crude strata on ice on Lake Skakawea.PNG)*

*(See attached file: Update Report.docx)*

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Happy Holidays!

Duc Nguyen  
On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)  
Emergency Response Unit

US EPA  
1595 Wynkoop St. (8EPR-SA)  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
(303) 312-6509 (work)  
(303) 886-1636 (cell)  
E-mail: [nguyen.duc@epa.gov](mailto:nguyen.duc@epa.gov)

[attachment "Garrison Project Boundary.PNG" removed by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US]  
[attachment "Location of Blow-Out.PNG" removed by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US]  
[attachment "Crude in footsteps.PNG" removed by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US]  
[attachment "Crude strata on ice on Lake Skakawea.PNG" removed by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US]  
[attachment "Update Report.docx" removed by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US]

Jennifer Schuller  
Team Lead, UIC/OPA Enforcement Teams  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St. (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
303-312-6334



*Slawson*

**Peterson, Cynthia**

---

**From:** Schuller, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Friday, March 08, 2013 12:34 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Cynthia  
**Subject:** w: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

FYI -

Jennifer Schuller  
UIC/OPA Technical Enforcement  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129  
Phone: 303.312.6334  
Fax: 303.312.6952

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US on 03/08/2013 12:31 PM -----

**From:** Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US  
**To:** Jennifer Schuller/R8/USEPA/US  
**Cc:** Darcy Oconnor/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Date:** 12/20/2012 11:34 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

Hi Jen, I left you a brief voicemail to see if we can get together and discuss EPA's potential follow-up. I am free from 1-2 and from 330-430 today if you have time. We can also chat briefly over the phone if that works better. Thanks Gwen

Gwenette Christiansen Campbell  
Acting Unit Chief NPDES Enforcement  
USEPA Region 8, Denver, CO  
1595 Wynkoop St 8ENF-W  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

(303) 312-6463

----- Forwarded by Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US on 12/20/2012 11:32 AM -----

**From:** Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US  
**To:** Gwen Campbell/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Cc:** Art Palomares/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Date:** 12/20/2012 06:55 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

Gwen,  
Below is some additional information from the well in ND. See message below.  
Thanks

Emilio Llamozas  
(303) 312-6407 phone  
(303) 312-7202 fax

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

----- Forwarded by Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US on 12/20/2012 06:53 AM -----

**From:** "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>  
**To:** Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US, Curtis Kimbel/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, "Glatt, Dave D." <dglatt@nd.gov>, "Fewless, Dennis R." <dfewless@nd.gov>, "Helms, Lynn D." <lhelms@nd.gov>, "Hvinden, Dave C." <dhvinden@nd.gov>, "Garbe, Bob K." <bgarbe@nd.gov>  
**Cc:** "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>  
**Date:** 12/19/2012 06:48 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND



Last question first. Yes Tribal is aware and involved, and this is within Tribal boundaries, but on Fee land and USACE/NDGF land, so no one is entirely sure what the Tribal involvement will be. Although rumor has it that the Tribal Chairman is pretty ticked off with the company for reasons even beyond this incident.

First question – As best we can know at this time, the mist is mainly Bakken Crude. Best hypothesis so far (being checked by 3 samples in lab from 3 different distances from the well) is that the heavy produced water with salt content dropped out very close to the well, and the oil was carried much farther with the wind. Well went into production approximately October 10-15, flowing under its own pressure. That means that the well has had nearly 2 full months to purge any remaining frac fluids before the well control failure. The accident happened while setting the pump on the well after the pressure/flow started dropping off, as is the usual practice up here.

We will be collecting a produced water sample from before the control failure from the produced water tank. That should give us a fair idea of what is in the produced water. We will also be checking for any frac chemicals we can analyze for, based on information from [www.fracfocus.org](http://www.fracfocus.org), as all fracking, and chemicals, is required to be listed on that website for North Dakota.

NDDoH, USACE, USFWS, NDGF, and Tribal Energy were all present at 10:00 yesterday as we walked the plume path and discussed/decided what measures to execute and when.

Impacted snow will be removed from a secluded back bay area along the shore. USACE and USFWS agreed that attempting anything on the substrate of the island/peninsula and shore line where tern and plover nesting may occur would cause more damage than good. Monitoring for impacts in the spring will be required.

We took a background sample of snow and soil/substrate as well as an impacted snow sample from the back bay and 2 possibly impacted soil/substrate samples from the perimeter of the back bay.

Six (6) hay filter strips across the drainage from the well location to the lake will be staked down after cutting vegetation to the ground level with a brush hog along those strips. Also, a mesh of polyethylene sorbent will be placed at the shore/vegetation line of the drainage as a final precaution against overland flow during melt.

Approximately 150 most heavily misted conifer trees were flagged for immediate (sunny day and temp around 32F) application of Ecobiotics treatment. Another application in the spring, before budout, will be done on those and a much larger number of both conifer and deciduous trees in the mist plume path.

NDGF and USACE will actively be working with the company to evaluate the possibility of a prescribed burn of the grasses areas in the spring, as a burn at this time is not practical with the snow cover.

Company appears to be compliant and in agreement with all of the above, and will starting the measures above immediately. USACE is in the process of working up a “Temporary Construction” permit for the company.

That is where we left it at 15:00. Will update further as information is available.

Kris Roberts  
Div. of Water Quality  
[kroberts@nd.gov](mailto:kroberts@nd.gov)  
701.328.5236 (o)  
701.391.0982 (c)

**From:** Llamozas.Emilio@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Llamozas.Emilio@epamail.epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2012 7:26 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Kris D.  
**Subject:** Re: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

Kris,

Thanks for the update. I really appreciate it. Do you know what the mist plume was made up of? Also, do you know if the spilled material has been sampled?

Looking at the map it appears that the well might have been on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Do you know if that is the case and whether the Three Affiliated Tribes are involved in this issue?

Thanks,

Emilio Llamozas  
(303) 312-6407 phone  
(303) 312-7202 fax

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

"Roberts, Kris D." ---12/18/2012 06:26:40 AM---Emillio: In answer to your enquiry. The well in question was brought under control on Friday mornin

From: "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>  
To: Emilio Llamozas/R8/USEPA/US  
Cc: "Glatt, Dave D." <dglatt@nd.gov>, "Fewless, Dennis R." <dfewless@nd.gov>  
Date: 12/18/2012 06:26 AM  
Subject: Update on the well control problem in McKenzie County, ND

Emillio: In answer to your enquiry.

The well in question was brought under control on Friday morning at 0500. Clean up is underway. First was scraping up of most heavily impacted snow and field stubble for disposal at the Industrial Waste Landfill near Sawyer, ND. Beyond that, we have identified the extent of the mist plume in both the north and southwest directions. In the north direction, the plume stayed within the agricultural field, and the company is in working with the landowner on damages and further options of clean up.

In the southwest direction, the mist plume has impacted private agricultural land, ND Game and Fish Department Wildlife Management area, leased from the US Corp of Engineers, and some made it onto the ice of Lake Sakakewea. All agencies have so far been on location evaluating the impacts and delineating the extents, with the exception of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. That is being corrected today.

We are all meeting today (company, USACE, NDGF, NDDoH, USFWS) to detail cleanup objectives and extents. The mist on the lake proper is so light and spotty that the USACE personnel that delineated it have recommended that nothing be done, as it would be of little benefit and likely cause more damage and risk to personnel.

A back bay area is going to have all snow removed (the mist leaves a 1/8 to 1/4 inch layer near the top of the snow pack – we have had flurries since), as well as some hand snow removal from the barrier island where tern and plover nest.

Samples have been taken, and more are planned, both now and in the spring. Runoff filter barriers will be laid down across the drainage out of the plume area. Luckily, the plume path and the drainages appear to roughly coincide. A biological agent that has been vetted by our department for this uses is going to be applied to the conifers and other trees that were misted in the wildlife management area.

Oh yes, Curtis Kimbel and Joyce Ackerman, Reg. 8 OSCs were contacted on Thursday and updated as to the information we had at that time. The only change to that was the discovery that the mist plume blew much farther to the southwest than I originally thought, i.e. onto the ice of the lake.

Any other questions you can direct to me.

Kris Roberts  
ND Dept. of Health  
Div. of Water Quality  
918 E. Divide Ave, 4th Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947  
[kroberts@nd.gov](mailto:kroberts@nd.gov)  
701.328.5236 (o)  
701.391.0982 ©

Jennifer Schuller  
Team Lead, UIC/OPA Enforcement Teams  
EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St. (8ENF-UFO)  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
303-312-6334